

Maidenhead,
17 Mar 1866

Dear Mr Walford

I do not see how
you can want any help
from me, seeing that you
are so well supported, es-
pecially by Mr Woodward.

When you began your
new undertaking I offered
some unpublished Letters by
2. Elizabeth's favourite
Essex, thinking that such
matter would be welcome

and could be ~~speed~~ speedily
furnished - If I do not
strike while the iron is hot,
I do not strike at all; and
not having heard from
you on the subject for a
week or two, I dismissed
the matter from my mind.

The truth is that my
energy is not what it used
to be, and if you "do not
take me in the humour" my
interest evaporates.

I was at the sea-side
when your note arrived.

Yours very sincerely
J. Paine Collier
E. Walford Esq.

I write briefly, because
you cannot have time
to read long letters, nor I
to write them.

